DC
SHADOW STRIKES
27
JAN 92
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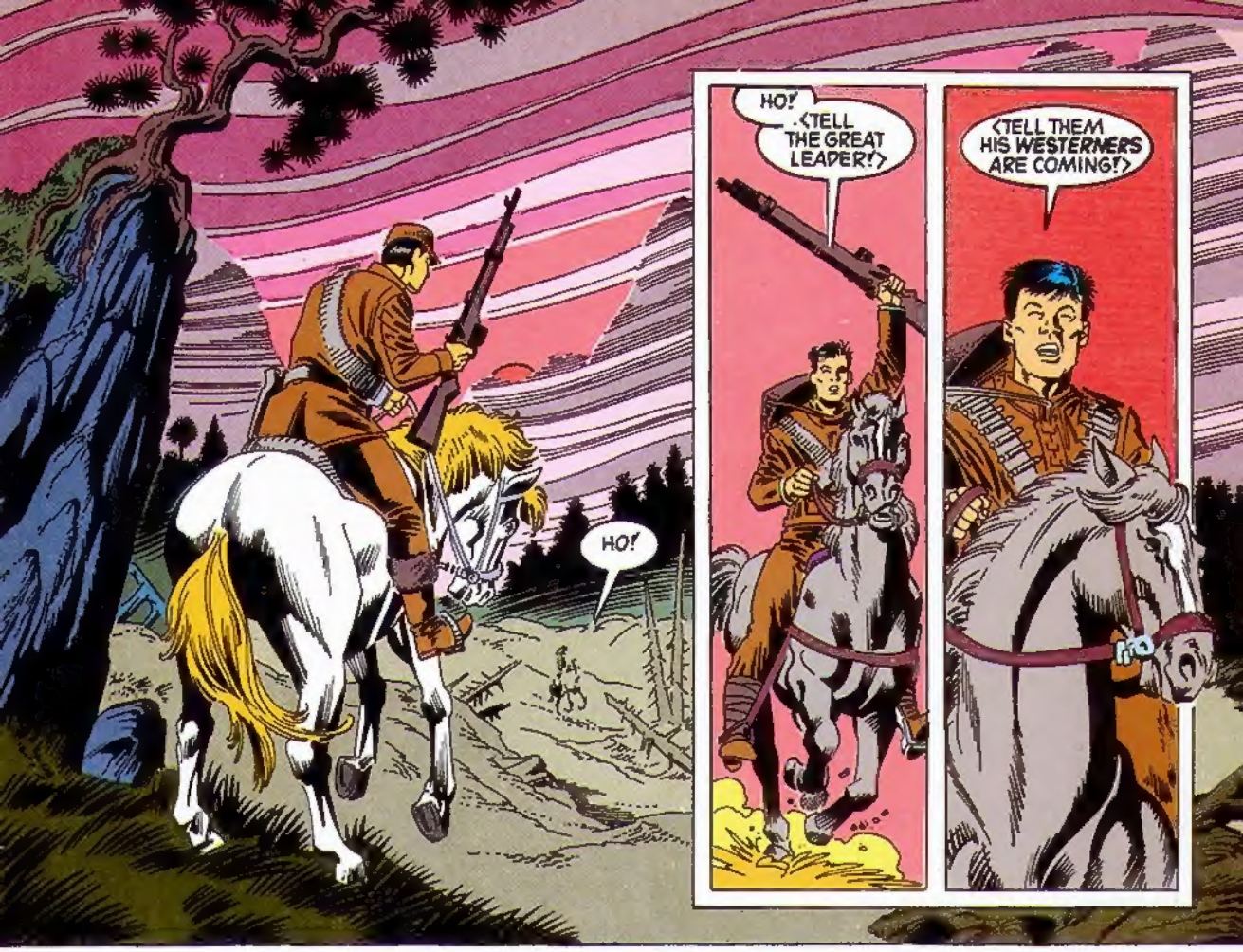
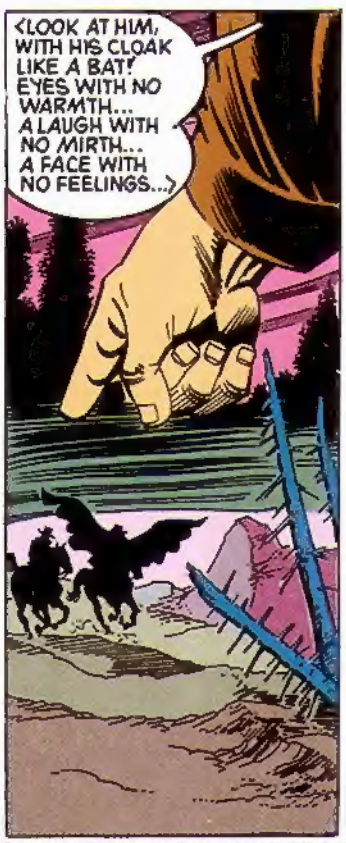
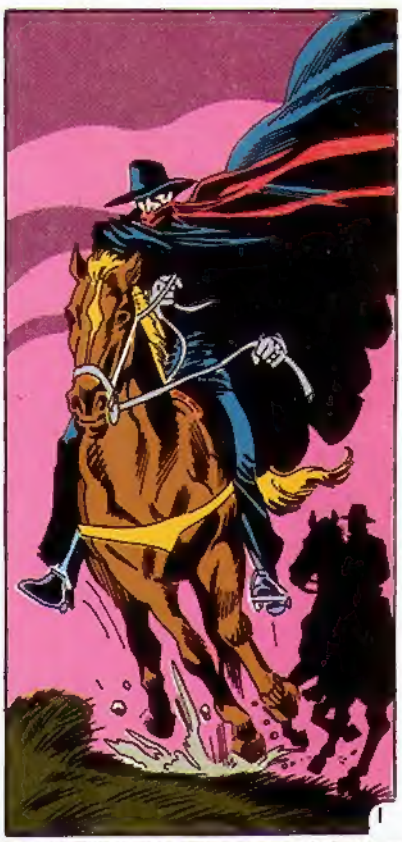
THE Shadow STRIKES!™
JONES
WHIGHAM
BEATTY
THE DEPTHS







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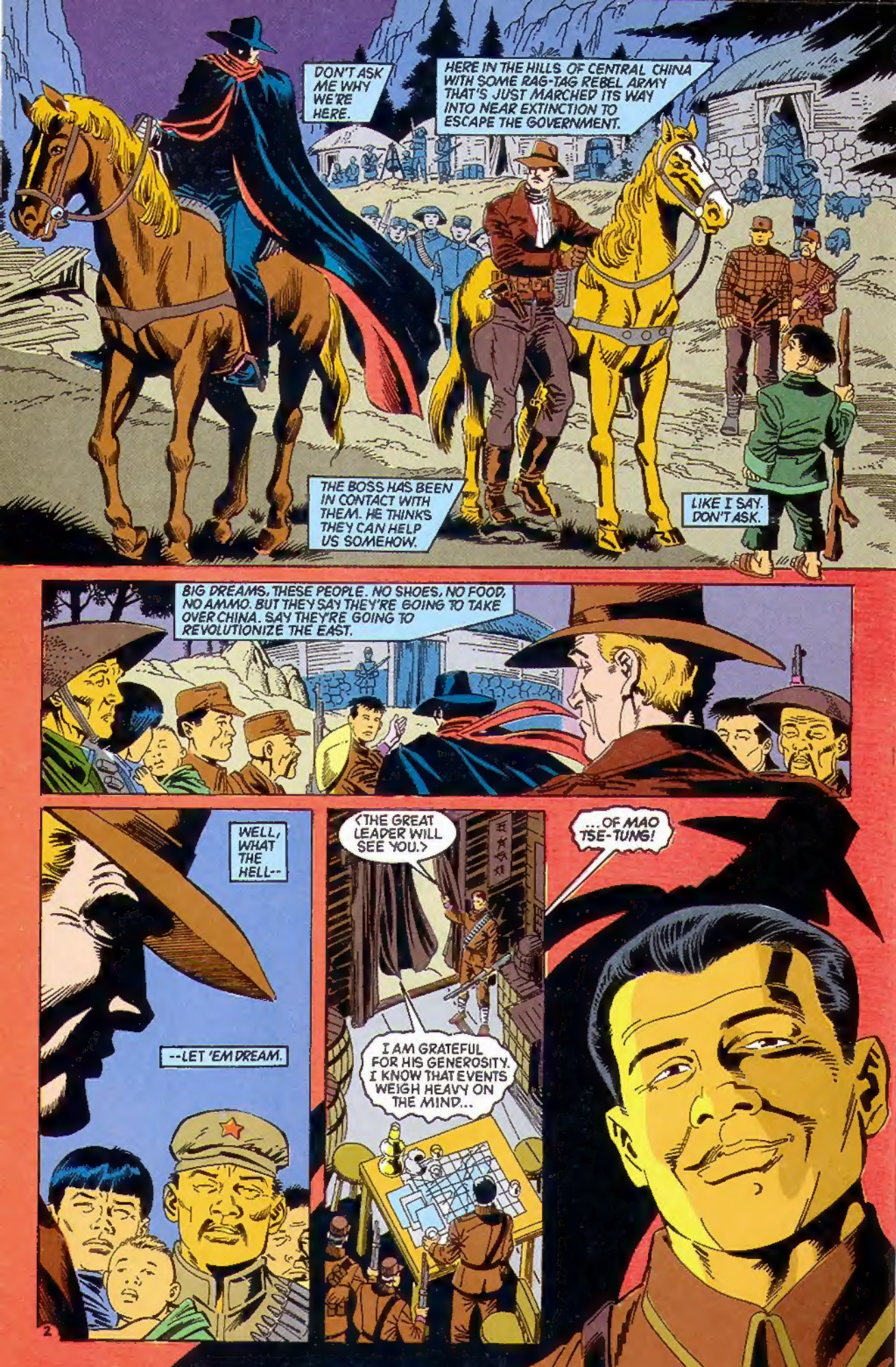
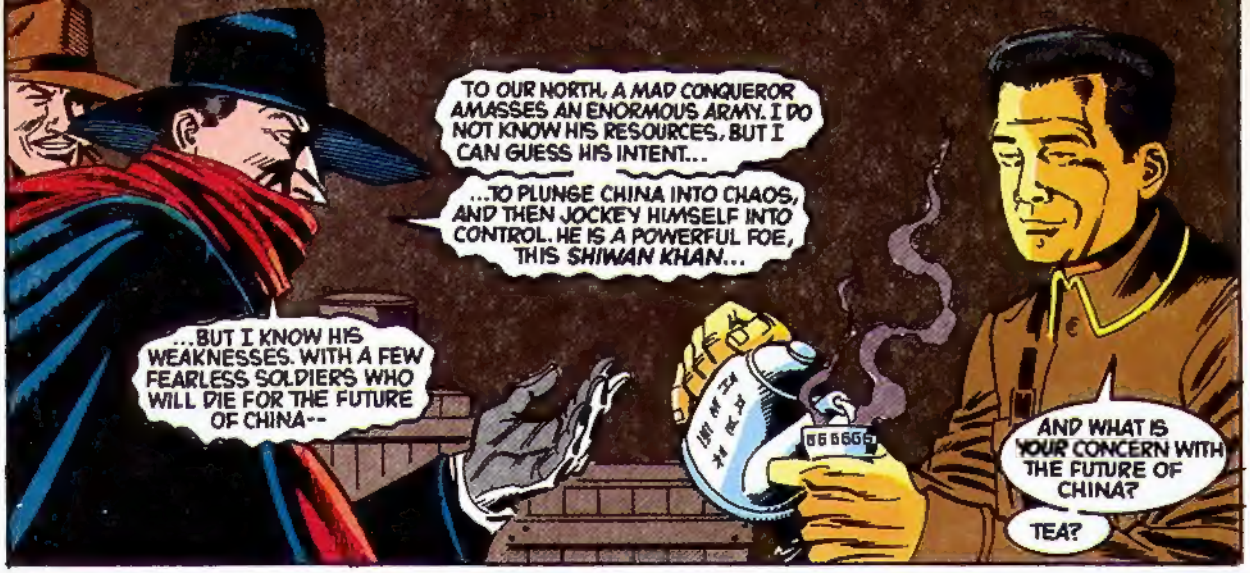
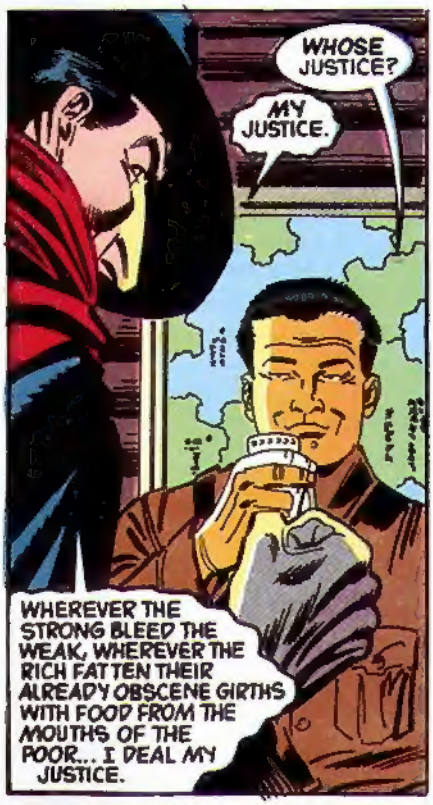

DON'T ASK ME WHY WE'RE HERE.
HERE IN THE HILLS OF CENTRAL CHINA WITH SOME RAG-TAG REBEL ARMY THAT'S JUST MARCHED ITS WAY INTO NEAR EXTINCTION TO ESCAPE THE GOVERNMENT.
THE BOSS HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THEM. HE THINKS THEY CAN HELP US SOMEHOW.
LIKE I SAY. DON'T ASK.
BIG DREAMS, THESE PEOPLE. NO SHOES, NO FOOD, NO AMMO. BUT THEY SAY THEY'RE GOING TO TAKE OVER CHINA. SAY THEY'RE GOING TO REVOLUTIONIZE THE EAST.
WELL, WHAT THE HELL--
--LET 'EM DREAM.
<THE GREAT LEADER WILL SEE YOU.>
I AM GRATEFUL FOR HIS GENEROSITY. I KNOW THAT EVENTS WEIGH HEAVY ON THE MIND...
...OF MAO TSE-TUNG!


TO OUR NORTH, A MAD CONQUEROR AMASSES AN ENORMOUS ARMY. I DO NOT KNOW HIS RESOURCES, BUT I CAN GUESS HIS INTENT...
...TO PLUNGE CHINA INTO CHAOS, AND THEN JOCKEY HIMSELF INTO CONTROL. HE IS A POWERFUL FOE, THIS SHIWAN KHAN...
...BUT I KNOW HIS WEAKNESSES. WITH A FEW FEARLESS SOLDIERS WHO WILL DIE FOR THE FUTURE OF CHINA--
AND WHAT IS YOUR CONCERN WITH THE FUTURE OF CHINA?
TEA?

THANK YOU, NO.
I HAVE NO LOYALTY TO ANY PARTY, OR TO ANY REVOLUTIONARY PROGRAM. I DEFEND NO LAW, AND NO GOVERNMENT.
BUT WHERE JUSTICE MUST BE DONE, THERE I WILL FIGHT.

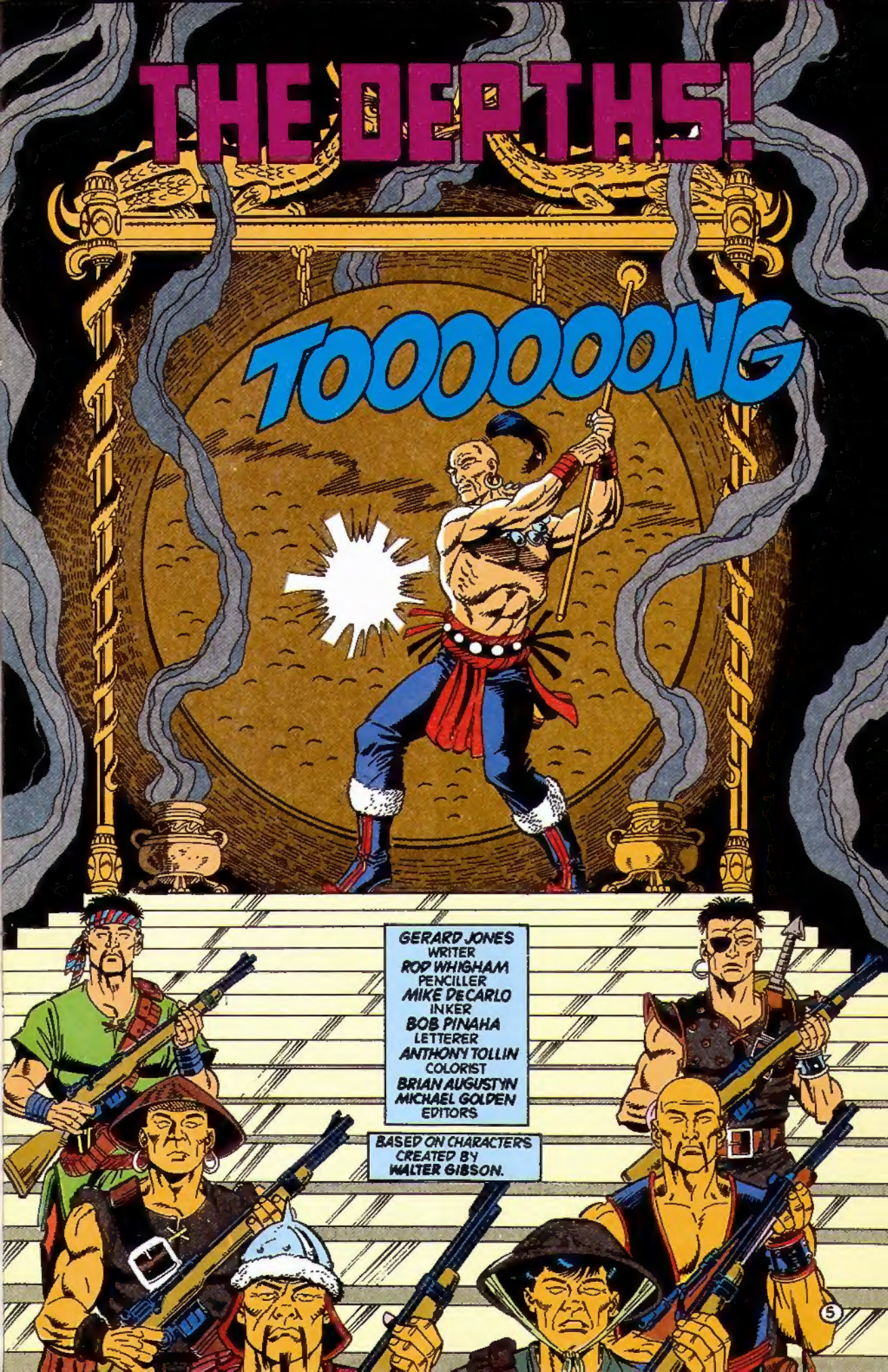

WHOSE JUSTICE?
MY JUSTICE.
WHEREVER THE STRONG BLEED THE WEAK, WHEREVER THE RICH FATTEN THEIR ALREADY OBSCENE GIRTHS WITH FOOD FROM THE MOUTHS OF THE POOR... I DEAL MY JUSTICE.

GANGSTERS. INDUSTRIALISTS. SOLDIERS. HEADS OF STATE. ALL ARE SUBJECT TO MY JUSTICE IF I FIND THEM WRONG.

SUCH A PRACTICE, EVEN ON BEHALF OF THE MASSES, IS A DANGEROUS ONE. ONLY THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT CAN DETERMINE WHAT IS JUST AND WHAT--
BEWARE YOUR "DICTATORSHIP"... LEST IN FREEING YOUR PEOPLE FROM ECONOMIC SLAVERY YOU BIND THEM TO A FALSE PERFECTION.

REMEMBER WHAT EVIL LURKS IN THE HEARTS OF MEN.
3

"<I DON'T LIKE IT, MAO...>"
<...WITH THE NATIONALISTS STILL PURSUING US, AND NOW THE JAPANESE INVADING, WE WILL NEED EVERY MAN WE HAVE!>
<I KNOW THIS IS NOT A SCIENTIFIC MOVE, CHOU. BUT THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT THIS ODD WESTERNER. SOME VOICE THAT SPEAKS THROUGH HIM...>
<...AN OLD VOICE, OLDER THAN DIALECTICAL MATERIALISM...>
"<...A VOICE FROM THE HEART OF CHINA ITSELF.">
THE HEART OF CHINA...
...HE IS IN IT. HE HAS TOUCHED IT. HE IS COMING!
SUMMON THE HORDE!

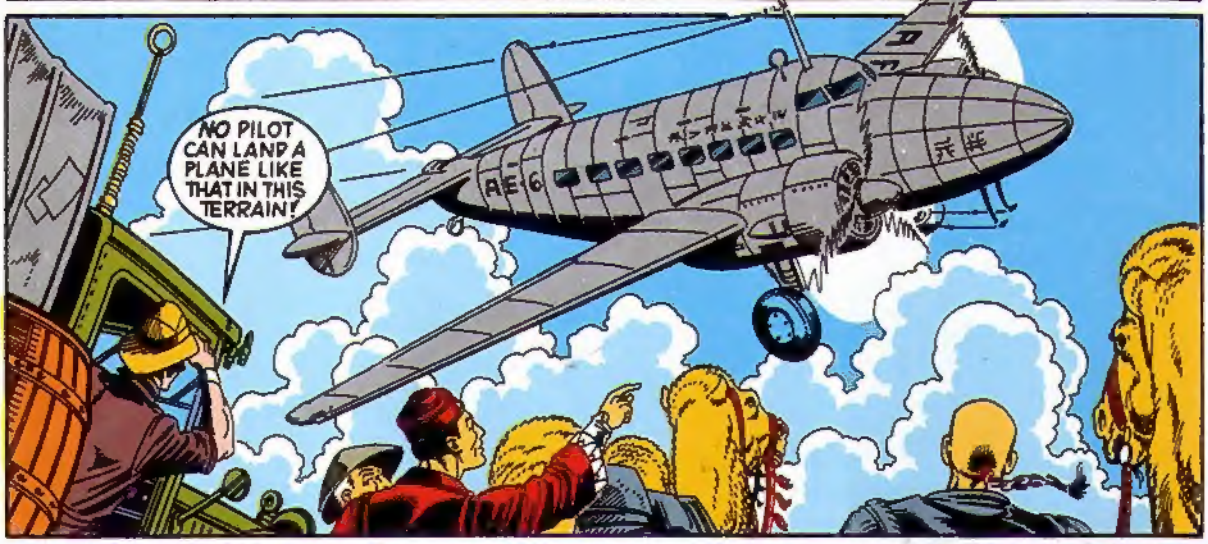

THE DEPTHS!
TOOOOOONG
GERARD JONES
WRITER
ROD WHIGHAM
PENCILLER
MIKE DECARLO
INKER
BOB PINAHA
LETTERER
ANTHONY TOLLIN
COLORIST
BRIAN AUGUSTYN
MICHAEL GOLDEN
EDITORS
BASED ON CHARACTERS CREATED BY WALTER GIBSON.
5

TOOOONG
TOOOOOONG
TOOOOOONG
TOOOOONG
<THE TROOPS ASSEMBLE, GREAT KHAN.>
<KEEP THEM OCCUPIED. I MUST LEARN A BIT MORE BEFORE I SPEAK TO THEM.>
<BRING ME OUR CAPTIVE!>
6

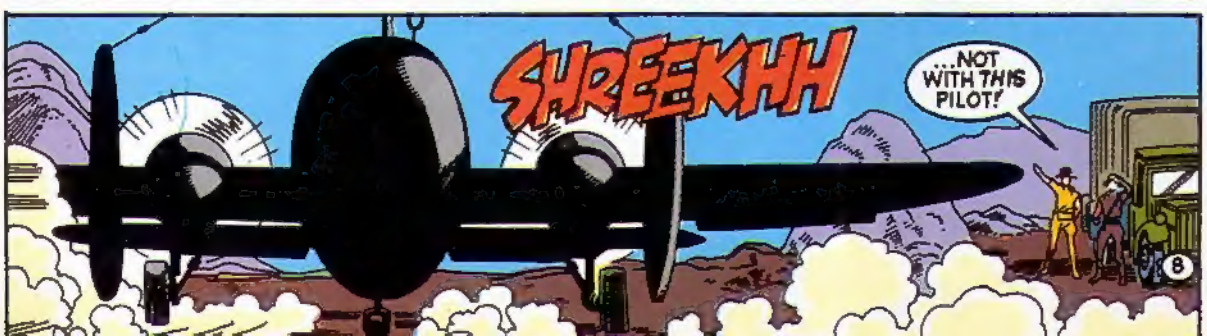
I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU, MISS LANE.
IF IT'S ABOUT MY READING TASTE AGAIN, SHIWAN, YOU'LL BE HAPPY TO KNOW I'VE BEEN CRACKING YOUR VOLUMES OF LI PO'S--
ENOUGH OF THIS!
I BROUGHT YOU HERE TO LURE YOUR MASTER! AND HE IS COMING--YES, HE IS COMING!
BUT HE HAS DRUNK OF SOME POWER THAT I DID NOT KNOW ABOUT! HE MAY HAVE AN ADVANTAGE THAT I CANNOT ANTICIPATE!
WHAT IS HIS PLAN? WHERE IS HE?
YOU HAVE BEEN SENDING MESSAGES TO HIM UNDER A FALSE NAME...THROUGH MY MEN! YOU MUST KNOW!
YOU'RE NOT THINKING, SHIWAN. I CAN SEND MESSAGES TO AGENTS AT PREARRANGED SPOTS, BUT THAT DOESN'T--
TAKE HER OUT!
DON'T LOSE YOUR HEAD, SHIWAN.
I WISH I COULD WISH YOU THE SAME, DEAR MARGO.
BUT IF YOU CANNOT GIVE ME INFORMATION...
...THEN AT LEAST YOU CAN HELP ME BOOST MY HORDE'S MORALE...
7

"...WITH A BIT OF BLOOD!"

GOOD GOD, ROY! HE'S INSANE!


NO PILOT CAN LAND A PLANE LIKE THAT IN THIS TERRAIN!

I WOULDN'T BE SO SURE OF THAT...

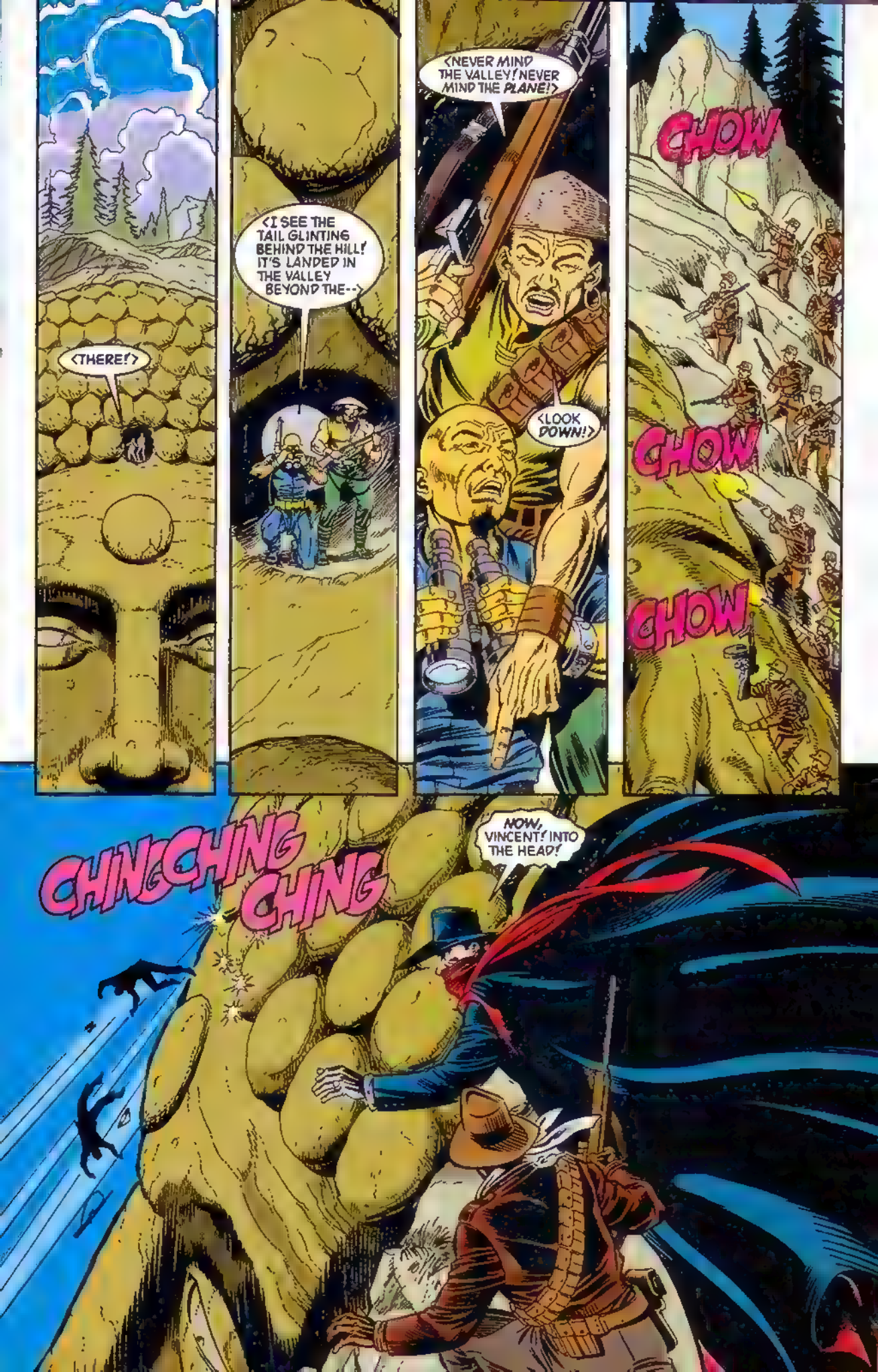

SHREEKHH
...NOT WITH THIS PILOT!
8

GOOD AFTERNOON, ANDREWS. PLEASE SEND YOUR ASSOCIATES IN SHANSHI MY THANKS FOR THEIR LOAN OF THIS CRAFT.
I KNEW IT'D NEVER BE IN BETTER HANDS THAN YOURS. NOW, ABOUT THAT INFORMATION YOU WANTED...
...THE LOCAL UIGHUR HERDSMEN HAVE SEEN MYSTERIOUS PLANES AND TRUCKS HEADING FOR THE BUDDHA OF BALIKUN, A CARVING IN THE CLIFFSIDE FROM BACK WHEN THE SILK ROAD WAS THE JUGULAR OF THE WORLD.
MY EXPEDITION HASN'T EXPLORED THAT FAR INTO THE INTERIOR YET, BUT--
UNHH!
BOSS?
BOSS! NOT AGAIN--
FEAR.
AND BLOODLUST.
FEAR. AND--
--SHIWAN!
SHIWAN! THE BLOOD YOU SPILL I SHALL TAP FROM YOUR VEINS!

WHAT--?
<GREAT KHAN?>
RAGE. RAGE!
<CAN YOU SEE WHAT'S GOING ON UP THERE? WHEN'S HE GOING TO KILL HER?>
<I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY BLOOD FOR THREE WEEKS!>
<YOU SHOULD TALK! I EVEN MISSED THE CHENGDU MASSACRE! I'M WONDERING IF I'M EVER GOING TO SEE ANY ACTION!>
<KILL HER!>
BULGASH!
<KILL HER!>
BULGASH!
BULGASH!
BULGASH!
BULGASH!
BULGASH!
<GREAT KHAN? SHOULD WE--?>
<NOT...YET. I.. I MUST FIRST COMMUNE WITH THE GODS.>
<WITH THE GODS?>
BULGASH!
BULGASH!
BULGASH!
BULGASH!
10

WHAT IS... HAPPENING...!
KLIK
I MUST... MAKE IT...
CREAK
...MAKE THE CLIMB...
KLIK
WHAT IS IT, KHAN?
FORGIVE MY INTRUSIONS...SIRS. BUT I...I SENSE A PROBLEM ABOUT TO DEVELOP..

LEVEL WITH ME, BOSS. YOU TALK TO ME IN MY DREAMS...LEVITATE... NOW YOU LINK MINDS WITH SHIWAN.
IT JUST AIN'T NORMAL!
I HAVE SAMPLED POWERS THAT YOU CANNOT UNDERSTAND, HARRY VINCENT. POWERS THAT I MUST TASTE ONLY BRIEFLY. AND CAUTIOUSLY
WERE I A HOLY MAN, I COULD DRINK DEEP OF THEM.
BUT THE ANGRY FLAME OF MY SOUL WOULD BECOME A CONFLAGRATION IF FUELED BY SUCH POWER.
I SHUT UP THEN. KEPT THE QUESTIONS INSIDE WHO AM I HOOKED UP WITH HERE?
WHO DID HE USED TO BE? AND WHAT MADE HIM THIS? WHAT HAPPENED?
NOT THAT IT MATTERED MUCH ANYMORE.
WE HAD THINGS TO DO.
12


(THERE!)
(I SEE THE TAIL GLINTING BEHIND THE HILL! IT'S LANDED IN THE VALLEY BEYOND THE--)
(NEVER MIND THE VALLEY! NEVER MIND THE PLANE!)
(LOOK DOWN!)
CHOW
CHOW
CHOW
CHINGCHING CHING
NOW, VINCENT! INTO THE HEAD!

PAKKA PAKKA
<BLOCK THE TUNNEL! KEEP THEM-->
<DIG IN! LET THEM CHARGE!>
HYAAAAH!
CHING
CHING
CHING
KLIK
WHIRRR
CHK CHK
WHRRR

DAMN HIM.
CHOWBLECHOW
IS THIS THE PROBLEM YOU MENTIONED, KHAN?
IT IS. AND I AM PREPARED, SIR. IT WILL SOON BE SETTLED.
BA BABABAM
WE'RE ALMOST IN, BOSS! THEN WHAT?!
TONG TONG
STOP THEM! STOP THEM! STOP THEM!
CHAGGAI!
CHAGGAI! SHA-KHAN!
OH...
...CRIPES!
15

BOSS--WHAT HAVE YOU GOTTEN US INTO?

HELL, HARRY VINCENT.

MODERN HELL.

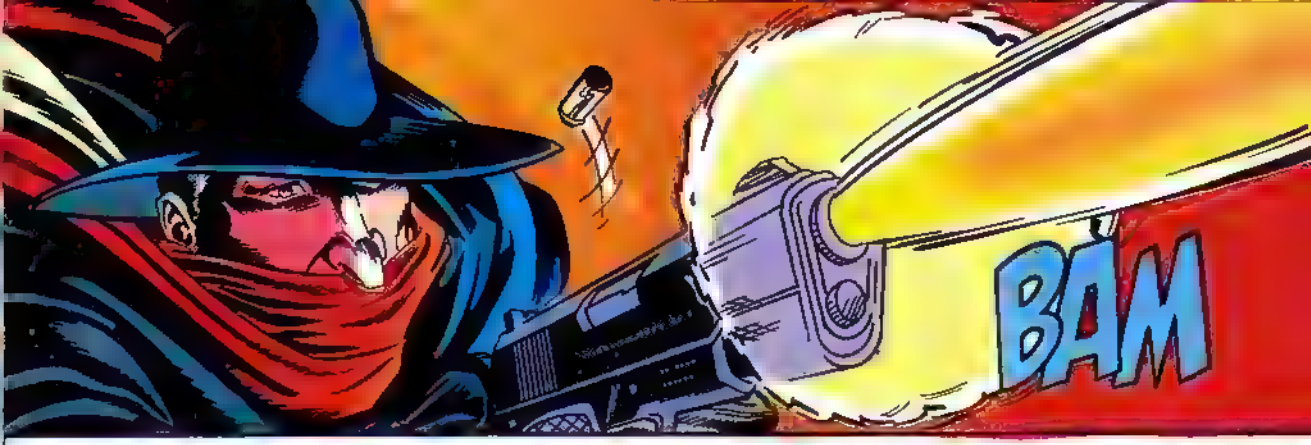
IGNORE THE TROOPS OUTSIDE! THEY ARE A DIVERSION!

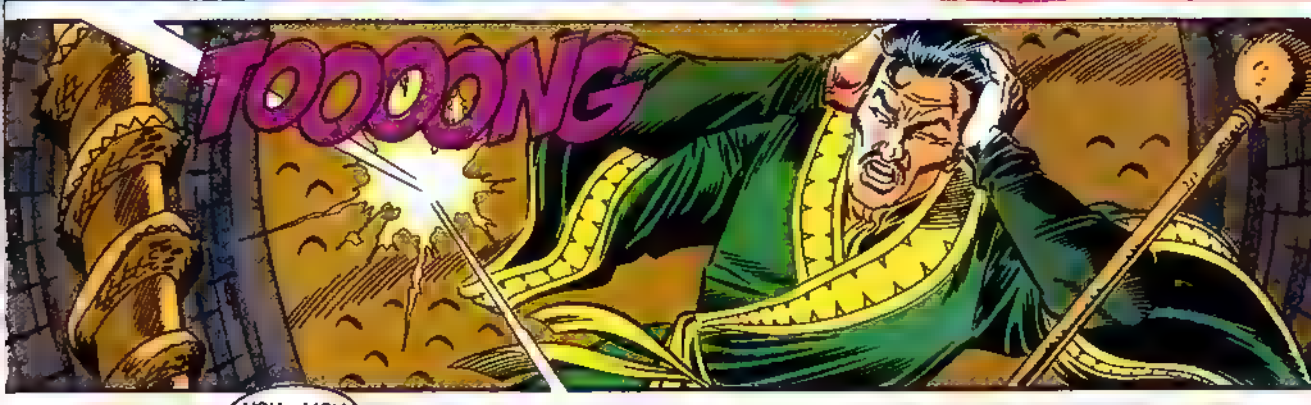
HE IS HERE! SOMEWHERE IN HERE! BUT HE IS ONLY ONE! ONE AGAINST AN ARMY!

ONE AGAINST A HORDE!

CHAGGAI!

CHAGGAI!


BAM

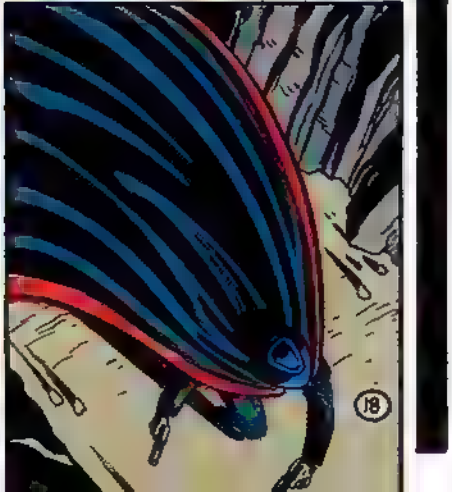

TOOOONG

YOU...YOU MISSED!
THE SHADOW NEVER MISSES.

NOW, YOU MAY WISH TO WITHDRAW INTO THIS PASSAGE...SO THAT YOUR CARBINE MIGHT KEEP YOUR ATTACKERS AT BAY.
ATTACKERS?

THERE! THERE!

PAKKA PAKKA
ATTACKERS.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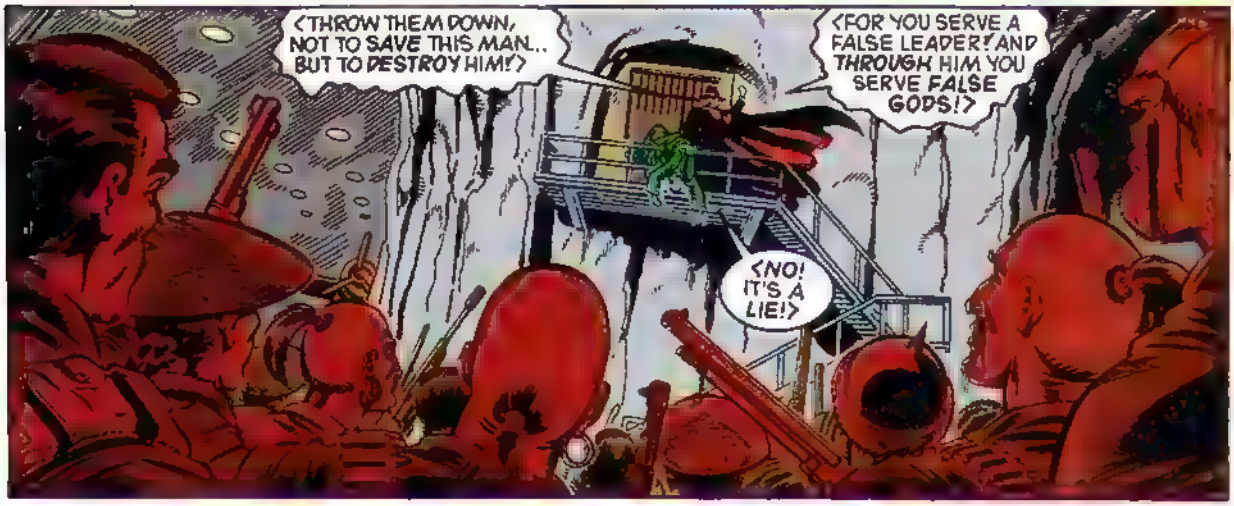
CHIEF?
CHIEF? I THOUGHT I HEARD YOU, BUT... DID I IMAGINE IT?
CHIEF, YOU SOUND LIKE YOU'RE IN MY HEAD. BUT...
...WHERE I AM? WELL, YES... I CAN CONCENTRATE ON IT. BUT...
...YES, OF COURSE I CAN...
CHOOOM
I KNOW BETTER THAN TO ASK HOW YOU DID THAT.
QUICKLY, AGENT LANE! TELL ME EVERYTHING YOU HAVE LEARNED OF SHIWAN KHAN!

HE'S HERE. I KNOW HE IS. MY MEN WON'T BE ABLE TO SHOOT HIM. ALL OF THEM COMBINED WON'T BE ABLE.
HE'LL BE HERE SOMEWHERE ANY SECOND NOW.
I CAN'T... I CAN'T AVOID HIM.
HE'LL...
GREETINGS, SHIWAN. WE HAVE MET AGAIN... AS YOU WISHED.
YOU WILL NOT BEAT ME!
20

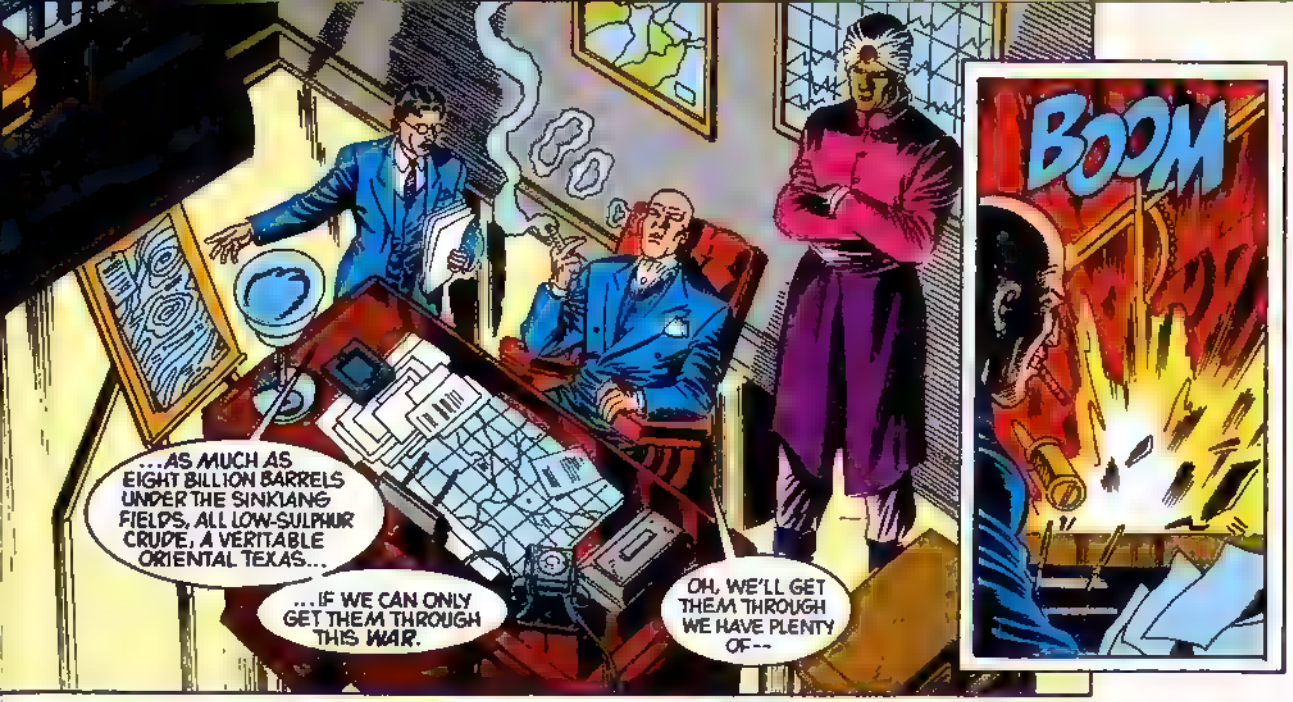
THAT MOVE WAS NOT LIKE YOU, SHIWAN.
NNKH!
WHAT HAS HAPPENED? WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOUR CONFIDENCE?
WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THAT STILLNESS OF HEART THAT MADE YOU SO DEADLY?
NOTHING!
IS IT THE FLAME OF THE GREAT OPAL? IS IT THAT YOU FELT ME BURNING IN YOUR MIND?
HYUNK!
IS IT THAT I HAVE PENETRATED YOUR SANCTUM? THAT I HAVE FAR MORE ALLIES THAN YOU EVER GUESSED?
KRACH
OR IS IT THAT I KNOW YOUR SECRET?
POK
THAT AGENT LANE LEARNED THE SECRET YOU SHARED ONLY WITH YOUR MOST INTIMATE SERVANTS...
...THE SMALL, NASTY, VENAL SECRET... AT THE ROOT OF YOUR GREATNESS?

POKKA POKKA
BUDDA BUDDA
CHUMASH!
CHUMASH.
..SHA-KHAN!
<THROW DOWN YOUR ARMS!>


<THROW THEM DOWN, NOT TO SAVE THIS MAN... BUT TO DESTROY HIM!>
<FOR YOU SERVE A FALSE LEADER! AND THROUGH HIM YOU SERVE FALSE GODS!>
<NO! IT'S A LIE!>

<HIS GODS ARE FALSE! MINE ARE TRUE! I SERVE THE ONLY TRUE GOD OF THE MODERN WORLD!>

<THEN TAKE US TO HIM, SHIWAN. TAKE ME AND THE LEADERS OF YOUR ARMY... TO MEET THIS "GOD.">


...AS MUCH AS EIGHT BILLION BARRELS UNDER THE SINKIANG FIELDS, ALL LOW-SULPHUR CRUDE, A VERITABLE ORIENTAL TEXAS...
...IF WE CAN ONLY GET THEM THROUGH THIS WAR.
OH, WE'LL GET THEM THROUGH WE HAVE PLENTY OF--
BOOM

STAND BACK. I DO NOT COME FOR BLOOD NOT YET. I COME TO FIND ANSWERS..

...AND TO SHARE THEM.
TELL US, THEN. TELL US WHY AN AMERICAN OIL TYCOON SITS IN THE BELLY OF CHINA... PLAYING GOD.

I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU ANYTHING! MY PARTNERS AND I PAID FOR THIS ARMY-- WE OWN IT!
AND I WANT TO KNOW WHO THE HELL YOU ARE!

<DO YOU UNDERSTAND HIS WORDS? DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW THAT SHIWAN KHAN HAS SOLD HIMSELF TO FOREIGN INDUSTRY TO PAY FOR THE POWER HE SO BADLY CRAVES?>
<THIS IS HIS "GOD"!!>

"YES! AND IT IS A GOD, YOU ROMANTIC BUFFOON! OIL IS THE GOD OF OUR TIMES!"
"WHY DOES JAPAN INVADE CHINA? FOR ACCESS TO SOUTHEAST ASIAN OIL!"
"AND WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF AMERICA CONTINUES TO STRANGLE JAPAN'S OIL SUPPLY? WAR! WAR GIRDLING THE PACIFIC! BOMBS BURNING CITIES!"
"THEY WILL SPEAK OF "DEMOCRACY" AND "IMPERIALISM." BUT IT WILL ALL BE FOR OIL! AND WHEREVER OIL IS FOUND IN DECADES TO COME-- WAR WILL FOLLOW!"
"WE ENTER AN AGE OF BLOOD AND TERROR! AN AGE OF FIRE-- BURNING OIL!"
"A FIRE THAT WILL CONSUME US ALL, BUT THOSE WHO TRAFFIC IN OIL..."
"...AND THOSE WHO PROTECT THEM..."
LISTEN. YOU'RE A WESTERNER. YOU UNDERSTAND. THESE COUNTRIES ARE HOPELESS-- BUT THEY'VE GOT RESOURCES.
WE CAN'T LET THE JAPANESE LOCK THEM UP, OR THE COMMUNISTS EITHER. A CIVIL WAR MAKES IT EASIER FOR US. THAT'S ALL THESE PEOPLE UNDERSTAND ANYWAY.
WHO'S GOING TO TELL THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO GO WITHOUT THEIR CARS AND THEIR HEATERS AND THEIR PRETTY NEW PLASTICS?
AND ALL FOR SOME COUNTRY THEY'VE BARELY HEARD OF? GO AHEAD, PAL. YOU TELL 'EM
THE SHADOW... TELLS NO ONE... ANYTHING.
"IT IS YOU WHO MUST MAKE THIS DECISION. DECIDE IF THIS CRUSADE IS WORTH YOUR LIVES. DECIDE WHO IS YOUR TRUE ENEMY..."
"...AND USE YOUR WEAPONS AS YOU WILL."
#BANGBANG BUDDA BUDDA K-CHOW
24

AND I THOUGHT THE SHOOTING WAS BAD.
THE SILENCE IS WORSE. THE SITTING TIGHT. THE FOLLOWING ORDERS. THE WAITING. WAITING FOR--
WELL, SHOULD'VE KNOWN I'D FIND YOU PARKED ON YOUR DUFF WHILE ALL THE ACTION WAS GOING ON, BRAVE BOY.
MARGO!
YOU'RE ALIVE!
OBSERVANT AS EVER, HARRY-LAD. BUT YOU MUST HAVE KNOWN! HAVEN'T YOU BEEN GETTING MY MESSAGES?
THE ONLY MESSAGES I'VE GOTTEN WERE FROM A MYRA...
...MYRA RELDON.
CRIPES! OF COURSE YOU WOULDN'T USE YOUR OWN NAME! YOU'D USE A CODE! AN ANAGRAM OF... MARY DELORN!
YOU...YOU KNOW? ABOUT MARY...?
LET'S JUST SAY I KNOW A LOT MORE NOW... I UNDERSTAND A LOT MORE NOW...
...THAN I EVER THOUGHT I COULD.
A NUMBER OF LESSONS HAVE BEEN LEARNED OF LATE. EVEN SHIWAN KHAN HAS LEARNED THAT THE WEED OF POWER BEARS BITTER FRUIT...
...AND WAR DOES NOT PAY.
HA HA HA
HA HA HA
THE END

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To All (especially Gerry):

I had to write after reading THE SHADOW STRIKES! #24. What a way to round out your second year. It was not so long ago that Gerard Jones was unknown to me, and then it seemed like he was doing everything. I was actually kind of disappointed to see the eighties Shadow disappear and have the stories return to the thirties. (Is the conclusion to the former series ever going to appear?) The first issue did not do a lot to impress me, but then Gerry really got going, and he did a lot of neat period stories. He took full advantage of the setting and history of the time, so that his stories are more than just the typical slam-bangs. He creates characters that come alive more and more each time you see them.

Now, on to this issue. Lots of writers have the gall to create characters that are racist, then write them off as villains anyway. Others place protagonists with nineties sensibilities in the past and they don't seem to fit in. Gerry avoided this by dealing with the black/white issue honestly.

Harry Vincent is an appealing character, the more so for his flaws. The fact that he comes out a "racist" is not out of character. Many, in fact most, white men (and women) of the time would have reacted the same way to the "Negroes" around them. Harry even displays a good deal of fear. I think he fears the blacks he meets as much as he feels sorry for them. He is a racist made by his time (and no less guilty for it), but it does not seem to make him any less a wonderful character, though the idea of him as "hero" diminishes

So, Margo is the daughter of a black prostitute and a rich white alderman (aren't they all?). That in itself flies in the face of over fifty years of imprinting, that Margo Lane is obviously white. Bravo, Gerry, for making us do a double-take, and presenting it well. I believed it. I did not rebel against it.

You should be writing novels. (Say, since Bantam is putting out a new series of Doc Savage novels, maybe you could convince someone to do a new series of Shadow novels? Scripted by you, of course? Or at least get someone to reprint all of Walter Gibson's Shadow novels? Please? Pretty please?)

John F. Weigel
Glendale, NY

* * * * *

Dear SHADOW STRIKES People:

I've been meaning to write for some time and the SHADOW STRIKES! letter page in issue #24 sparked me to the typewriter. This comic is consistently great. It is one of the finest comics on the market today.

As a comics store owner I do have to confirm Jon Reddick's fears. I only order two copies of THE SHADOW STRIKES!. I buy one and then hope for another buyer. I constantly push the comic and nothing seems to work. I wish DC would come up with some way to push this comic. I would willingly help in any way!

I know this is a little late, but I loved Mark Badger's artwork on the Shadow. From the sound of the letters page I am in the minority, but I would love to see more of his artwork—if not on a whole story, maybe a back-up feature.

Contrary to popular belief there are several of us who buy comics for the writing, and Gerard Jones is excellent! He has delivered great stories since the inception of this book. Please keep him hacking away on the Shadow. Is there any possible way to correspond with Gerard?

Thanks for a great comic.

Kevin Hill
Boise, ID

Anything addressed to Mr. Jones will certainly be forwarded to him. This meeting of the Gerard Jones Admiration Society hereby comes to a close. As for your problems with selling the Shadow, I really don't know what to say. If any of you folks find yourselves in Boise, I'd suggest you drop by 1,000,000 COMIX and take that other issue of the Shadow off Kevin's hands. Or maybe a few of us could visit Idaho and get Kevin to order more copies of THE SHADOW STRIKES! Better yet, all of us could move to Idaho and get the other folks in Idaho to buy THE SHADOW STRIKES! Then we could get the entire midwest to buy the book. Then the whole country. Then the world. See what you've started, Kevin. Oh yeah, all you folks who are going to buy THE SHADOW STRIKES!, I guess it would be millions of you at that point, you have to read the book. Trust me, you'll enjoy it.

* * * * *

Hey, Bob —

Re. THE SHADOW STRIKES! #24

Although the Shadow himself only made an appearance over the course of the last page, this was still one of the most interesting issues of this bad boy's entire run.

"Margo's Story" was fantastic. It was a real change of pace to not only give the spotlight to one of the agents for an issue but also to actually show three other operatives over the course of 25 pages. And having Harry narrate this particular tale just served to make it that much more poignant.

I'm glad that Gerard has finally revealed what the deal is with Margo, and, to be blatantly honest, it took me totally by surprise. I figured Señor Jones had something interesting to reveal about her and her past, but nothing could have prepared me for these startling revelations. I was literally on the edge of my seat for the entirety of the story, and it was one of the best reads I've had in a while.

Also, was that a picture of Margo or Sherilyn Fenn that Harry was holding on the cover?

Uncle Elvis
Dawson Springs, KY

P.S. A reporter by the name of AW, HECK! Thumbs up to Bob Pinaha for this little extra.

* * * * *

Dear Bob,

My only complaint about THE SHADOW STRIKES! #24 is that it took me this long to give it a try. I enjoy the work(s) of Gerard Jones immensely, and I think he's captured the character's mystique perfectly. Also, the artwork looks really good.

Many thanks to my favorite Uncle (Elvis, who else??!) for tuning me in and turning me on to such a wonderful book. I'll be back in 30.

Olivia Y. Rice
(Address withheld)

Looks like after tuning in and turning on you won't be dropping out, Olivia. Welcome aboard.

NEXT ISSUE: The Shadow, Margo, and Harry go to Hawaii courtesy of guest artist artist Steve Leialoha. Is wearing a cloak on the beach a fashion statement? Are you going to be the one to tell the Shadow that it's not? I certainly won't be.

In issue #29, it's back to New York and back to work. Art by Dan Spiegle.

Gerry Jones and Rod Whigham reunite for issues #30 and #31 and spin a little yarn called THE SHADOW— YEAR ONE.

—Bob Kahan

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What *Did* an Editor Do? Part I

Last week, in a column entitled *"What Does an Editor Do?"*, we gave you a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the world of comic-book editing. This week, I thought I'd offer a look at the former jobs of a few of DC's editors, sort of a "past lives" feature to show you where many of us have been before.

Let's start with our big boss: DC's Vice President/Editorial Director Dick Giordano. Older readers know of Dick's lifelong successes in the comics industry, both as an artist for virtually every publisher around, and as a popular editor at both Charlton and DC. But before that, Dick was a soda jerk. Today, Dick can not only draw and edit a comic like nobody's business, but he can also make the best chocolate milkshake you'll ever taste! Dick also worked as a maintenance person at a miniature golf course. I guess that explains the green carpet and mechanical dinosaur he's ordered for his office.

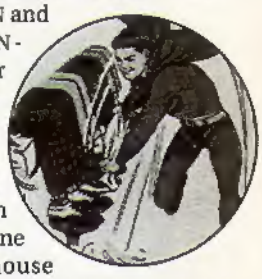
Kelley Puckett, BATMAN editor Denny O'Neil's former assistant, was once hired, during a stay in Tokyo, to translate one of the the Prime Minister's speeches into English, but had to complete the assignment under a grueling two-day deadline. Kelley recalls, "At about 2:00 a.m. on the second day, the effects of sleep deprivation caught up with me, and in a flash of insight, it became clear that the Prime Minister's speech patterns needed to be loosened up a bit, made more colloquial." While Kelley admits he doesn't remember much of what happened during "those fateful hours that followed," the phrase "I'm extremely stoked to be part of this conference" somehow made its way into the PM's speech. About six months later, the Prime Minister resigned and the Kaifu government came to power. "Although my Japanese friends assure me that it had nothing to do with my little indiscretion," Kelley notes, "I still can't help feeling somehow responsible for that poor guy's political demise."

Denny O'Neil has one of those stellar comics careers rivaled only by the likes of, oh, say, Dick Giordano. Denny's written and/or edited the adventures of virtually every DC super-hero, and a few over at Marvel, too. So where did Denny get his start? "I drove a Mr. Softee truck. Worked in a factory packing newly minted bottles. Protected your mothers and sisters from the ravening Commie hordes as a member of the U.S. Navy. Taught school. Oh, I forgot: I delivered groceries from age 8 through high school." Denny, can you run a bottle of apple juice up to my office after you've finished editing that DETECTIVE COMICS script?

Bob Greenberger, editor of DC's STAR TREK titles, offers the following recollection he calls "What I Did on My Summer Vacation": "In the summer of 1978, I was in charge of lampshade receiving" for a business in Long Island. "Every day I would help the driver unload lampshades and stack them with the rest of the inventory. I did develop a skill worthy of the Legion of Substitute Editors (as LEGION editor, Bob, I'm putting your name in with the Subs for consideration... are you willing to relocate to the 30th century?—M.E.), balancing as many as nine boxes on top of my head and fitting them into a narrow space (Careful, Bob, mentioning your head and a "narrow space" in one sentence!). I enjoyed talking with the drivers and hearing interesting stories about things they did and saw.

"When I wasn't unloading lampshades," Bob continues, "I was helping to fill orders and became pretty adept at packaging shades for department stores." Bob's current position as DC's Manager of Editorial Scheduling really isn't too far removed from this earlier job. Today, Bob traffics all incoming and outgoing scripts and artwork on all of DC's titles—aided and abetted by Frank Pittarese and Eddie Berganza—as well as editing the STAR TREK books and other occasional titles. And when he's got a few free moments, Bob can be found packing boxes of SHADE (THE CHANGING MAN) for comics stores.

AQUAMAN and GREEN LANTERN editor Kevin Dooley once worked as the manager of two theatres in Hollywood, one a revival house showing only pre-'50s films, and the other showing esoterica, including *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* four times weekly. "I had to deal with people dressed as most of the characters," Kevin notes, "including one person who had undergone a sex change in order to be more like Dr. Frankenfurter, the role Tim Curry played. I had to deal with drunks, hookers (the theatre was right on Sunset Boulevard), and deranged employees. Come to think of it, it wasn't that far removed from funnybook editing."

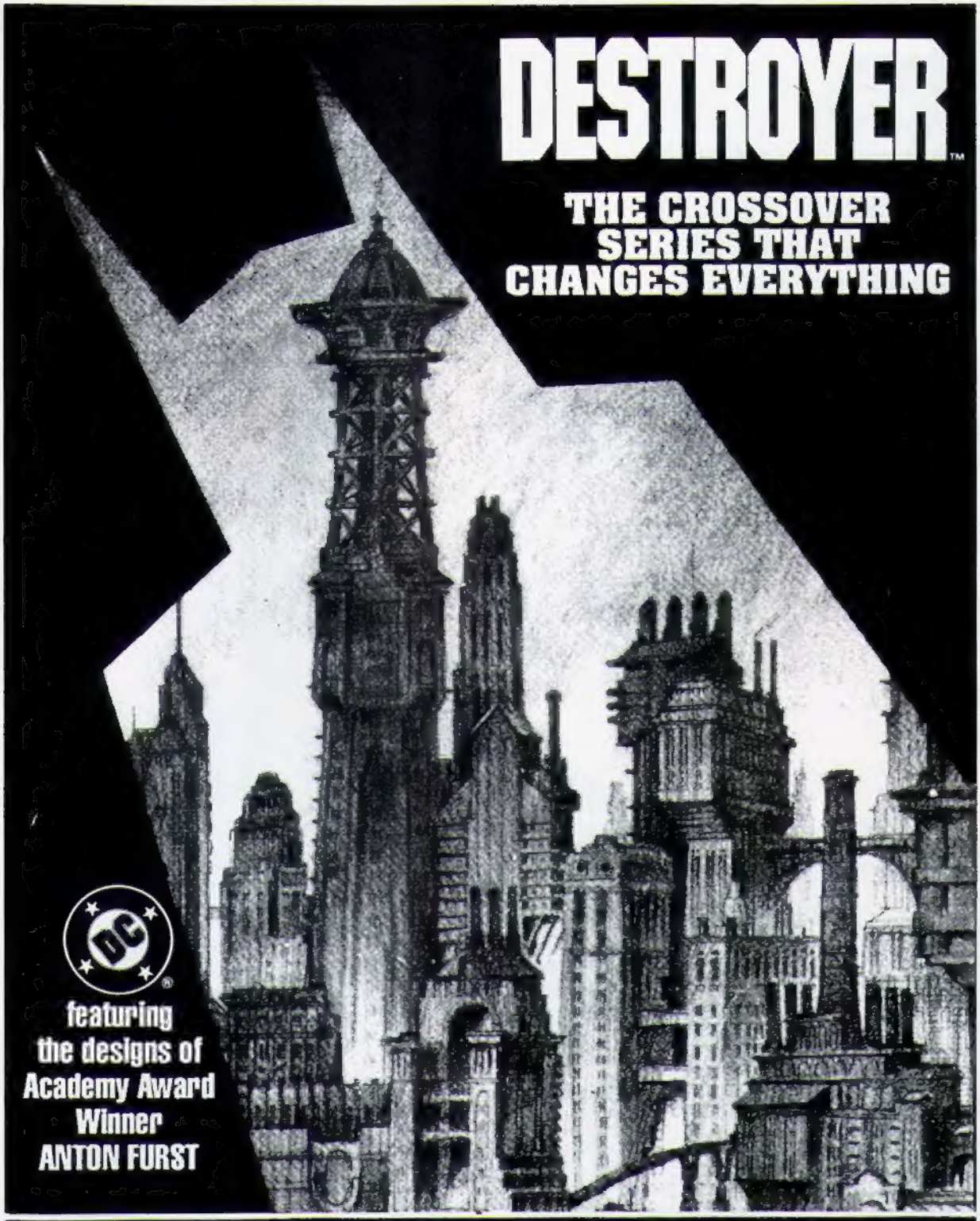


Bob Kahan (pronounced "Kahn," just like our President/Editor-in-Chief's name... no relation) is a "floating" assistant editor here at DC, meaning he "floats" from editor to editor, pitching in and helping wherever he's most needed. Being the floater requires versatility, something Bob's employment background certainly provides. In Bob's own words, "I've been a baker's assistant, an audio-visual cowboy driving a golf cart delivering projectors to the downtrodden masses at USC, I've pumped gas, performed as a dancer/actor and been paid for it, sold real estate, worked at an investment banking firm for six years, and I've managed a video store." From this colorful past, Bob says, "Generally, the most memorable experience I've had in these jobs was leaving them, but when I was managing the video store, an Academy Award-winning actor requested my assistance in choosing some adult films. That's me, Bob Kahan—purveyor of porno to the stars."

My, oh my, that's quite a list of former jobs... and we're not done yet! Next week, we'll continue on this trip down editorial memory lane with looks into the pasts of other DC editors.

See you next week.

—*Michael Eury*



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